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**Mykhaylo ZAN**

PhD (History), Associate Professor of Department of Political Science and Public Administration of Uzhhorod National University, 14 Universytetska Street, Uzhhorod, Ukraine, postal code 88016 (mykhaylo.zan@uzhnu.edu.ua)

**ORCID:** <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8967-0083>

**Olha HVOZDYAK**

PhD (Education), Associate Professor, Head of the Department of the German Philology of Uzhhorod National University, 14 Universytetska Street, Uzhhorod, Ukraine, postal code 88016 (olha.hvozdyak@uzhnu.edu.ua)

**ORCID:** <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5760-576X>

**Researcher ID:** G 2421-2019

**Михайло ЗАН**

кандидат історичних наук, доцент кафедри політології і державного управління Ужгородського національного університету, вул. Університетська, 14, Ужгород, Україна, індекс 88016 (mykhaylo.zan@uzhnu.edu.ua)

**Ольга ГВОЗДЯК**

кандидат педагогічних наук, доцент, завідувачка кафедри німецької філології Ужгородського національного університету, вул. Університетська, 14, Ужгород, Україна, індекс 88016 (olha.hvozdyak@uzhnu.edu.ua)

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**THE ETHNO-CULTURAL RENAISSANCE  
AND PUBLIC REPRESENTATION OF THE GERMAN NATIONAL  
MINORITY IN TRANSCARPATHIAN REGION AFTER 1989**

**Abstract. The Purpose of the Article.** Based on the statistic data, the archival material, the published documents, the scientific papers and the interviews with the public representative of the Germans of the region, we will try to elucidate the following ethno-Renaissance aspects of the social and cultural life of the Germans of Transcarpathia after 1989: 1) the demographic tendencies in the German environment based on an analysis of the migration series and the results of 1989 and 2001 population censuses; 2) the national education and upbringing; 3) the German language mass media; 4) the work in the cultural sphere; 5) the national cultural societies' activities; 6) the ethno-confessional identity of the Germans in Transcarpathian region. **The methodology of the research** is based on the principle of historicism and the structural functional approach. The method of a statistical analysis of the population censuses results of 1989 and 2001, the migration indicators of the German national minority mobility of Transcarpathian region has been used. The results of the interview with

the leader of the public organization "The German Youth of Transcarpathia" have been presented. **The scientific novelty** consists in using the structural and functional methodological approach to the public representation study of the German ethnic community of Transcarpathian region after 1989. **The Conclusions.** Thus, the results of the first All-Ukrainian population census of 2001 illustrated the situational factor of the ethnic identity among the persons, who called themselves the Germans in comparison with the data of the 1989 census. At the same time, the emigration activity during the analyzed period increased every year and in fact led to the decrease in the number of the representatives of the German national minority of the region. However, the above mentioned information also demonstrates the resistance to the assimilation processes that emerged in the creation of the national cultural societies ("The Renaissance", "The Hope", "The Germans of Transcarpathia"). Recently active work in the environment of the German-speaking youth of Transcarpathia is carried out by the public organization "The German Youth of Transcarpathia" (Yu. Types, the head). The representatives of the German Transcarpathian ethnic community, with the assistance of the pastoral and material assistance from Germany, affirm the Roman Catholic ethno-confessional identity. All these processes contribute to the renaissance of the ethnic culture of the Germans of Transcarpathia in the new realities of the Ukrainian state formation.

**Key words:** German national minority, Transcarpathia, ethno-cultural development, national and cultural societies, public organizations.

## ЕТНОКУЛЬТУРНИЙ РЕНЕСАНС ТА ГРОМАДСЬКЕ ПРЕДСТАВНИЦТВО НІМЕЦЬКОЇ НАЦІОНАЛЬНОЇ МЕНШИНИ ЗАКАРПАТТЯ ПІСЛЯ 1989 Р.

**Анотація.** Метою дослідження є окреслення проблеми етносоціального та етнокультурного розвитку німецької національної меншини Закарпаття після 1989 року. Автори розглядають наступні аспекти розвитку німецької етнічної громади краю: етнодемографічні тенденції, розвиток національної освіти та виховання, активізацію фольклорних аматорських колективів, фестивалів, етнорелігійні пріоритети німців. Особливу увагу акцентується на досягненнях німецьких національно-культурних товариств. Констатується роль еліти німецької національної меншини у процесах етнокультурного ренесансу. **Методологія статті** базується на принципі історизму та структурно-функціонального підходу. Використана методика статистичного аналізу результатів переписів населення 1989 та 2001 рр., міграційних показників рухливості німецької національної меншини Закарпаття. Подано результати проведеного інтерв'ю з лідером громадської організації "Німецька молодь Закарпаття". **Наукова новизна** полягає у застосуванні структурно-функціонального методологічного підходу до вивчення громадського представництва німецької етнічної громади Закарпатської області після 1989 р. **Висновки.** Німецька національна меншина в умовах демократизації українського суспільства зробила важливі кроки у напрямку етнокультурного ренесансу та утвердження власної національної ідентичності. Про це засвідчили позитивні показники етнодемографічних процесів, відродження німецьких національних традицій, мови та культури, розширення напрямів діяльності громадських організацій, зокрема німецької молоді Закарпаття.

**Ключові слова:** німецька національна меншина, Закарпаття, етнокультурний розвиток, національно-культурні товариства, громадські організації.

**The Problem Statement.** The post-totalitarian transformations in Central and South-Eastern Europe caused the ethno-cultural renaissance of the national minorities. A vivid indicator of such an ethno-cultural life revival is the rapid creation of the national and cultural societies in Ukraine, Romania, Slovakia, Poland, Hungary, their involvement in the political process in these countries, the desire to cooperate with "the language homelands".

**The purpose of our research** is to elucidate the most important issues of the ethno-social and ethno-cultural life of the German national minority in Transcarpathia after 1989. The study of this problem will allow to find out the tendencies of the socio-cultural life of the Germans of the region, it will help to reproduce the holistic problem of the national and

cultural development of the ethnic groups of Transcarpathia, which is a topical task at the present stage of the Ukrainian state-building.

**The Analysis of Sources and Recent Researches.** In our article we refer to the statistical materials of Transcarpathian Regional Administration of Statistics, the documents of the State Archives of Transcarpathian Regional State Administration, the former current archives of Transcarpathian Regional Departments of Justice and Education and Science, the Department of Nationalities of the State Administration. A number of important aspects of the ethno-renaissance processes among the Germans of Transcarpathia after 1989 are revealed in our interview with Julia Types, the head of the German organization of the Transcarpathian youth.

The scientific and methodological basis of the article is formed in accordance with the principle of historicism, the structural and functional approaches. The authors use the methodology of the statistical analysis of the population censuses results in 1989 and 2001 and the migration indicators among the representatives of the German national minority of Transcarpathia. The discourse analysis of the interview with the leader of the German public organizations in the region has been conducted.

It is worth noting that some aspects of these issues have already been reflected in the scientific articles and monographs of Transcarpathian scientists. Thus, in 1991, Ya. Karychak outlined the conditions for the creation and the practical tasks of the Transcarpathian Germans "The Renaissance" society, whose foundation conference took place on July 8, 1990. Among the priorities of the newly formed society of the Germans of the region there were the following ones: the restoration of a true nationality, the solution of the cultural and educational problems, finding out the names and the numbers of the repressed Germans, the inclusion in the struggle for the revival of the German Autonomous Republic in the USSR and the others (Karychak, 1991, p. 62). The conditions for "The Renaissance" society revival and the first steps of its activity in the independent Ukraine are analyzed in the article, written by the researchers F. Kulia and P. Petryshche in details (Kulia, Petryshche, 2004, pp. 80–83).

The Ukrainian historians M. Makara and R. Ofitsynskyi point out rightly that most of the Germans of Transcarpathia are at the crossroads and it all depends on how they feel in the independent Ukraine (Makara, Ofitsynskyi, 1995, p. 17). However, the problems of a socio-economic nature solved the fate of the German national minority in the direction, as H. Pavlenko observed rightly, "drang nach Westen". The scientist noted that as early as in 1993, there were about 3,400 Germans, of whom 2,400 were native speakers; in 1992, 248 people left Ukraine. (Pavlenko, 1995, p. 45; Pavlenko, 1999, p. 158). H. Pavlenko and F. Kulia noted that inspite the fact of some achievements in the field of education and the mass media, this fact does not solve the problem of the massive emigration of the Germans to Germany and other countries (Pavlenko, 1995, pp. 46–47; Kulia, 1998, p. 21; Kulia, 1999, p. 185). Some aspects of the ethno-cultural renaissance of the Germans of Transcarpathia, which are analyzed in the above mentioned studies, are also investigated by the home researchers: H. Melik (Melika, 2002), V. Yevtukh and B. Chyrko (Yevtukh, Chyrko, 1994).

Also note-worthy are the sociological analyses of the department of the ethno-political and ethno-sociological studies of the Institute of Sociology of the Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, which were conducted in the first half of the 1990-ies in the villages of Pavshyno and the village Nove of Mukachevo district, where the German population was 90 % of the total villages' population. Thus, according to the surveys, 54 % of the respondents thought that the migration wave would be reduced by a dual citizenship; 41 % of the respondents –

by the development of entrepreneurship, 23 % – the development of education, the German language media; 19 % of the respondents thought that nothing could stop the apathy and the “suitcase mood” (Klynchenko, 1995, p. 79). The traditions observance, the family customs, the marriages (71 % ethnically endogamous, i.e., between the representatives of the German nationality) were the factors of the German ethnic identity preservation. Although polylingualism and friendship with the representatives of other nationalities (76 %), the marriages with the Ukrainians (29 %) were observed (Klynchenko, 1995, p. 80).

**The Purpose of the Article.** Based on the statistic data, the archival material, the published documents, the scientific papers and the interviews with the public representative of the Germans of the region, we will try to elucidate the following ethno-Renaissance aspects of the social and cultural life of the Germans of Transcarpathia after 1989: 1) the demographic tendencies in the German environment based on an analysis of the migration series and the results of 1989 and 2001 population censuses; 2) the national education and upbringing; 3) the German language mass media; 4) the work in the cultural sphere; 5) the national cultural societies' activities; 6) the ethno-confessional identity of the Germans in Transcarpathian region.

**The Statement of the Basic Material.** According to the census in 1989, 3 470 Germans lived in Transcarpathia. 2 576 of them considered the German language to be the mother tongue (Delo No. 4, 1989); 55.5 % of the Germans lived in the rural areas (Statystychni dani, 1997, p. 216). The largest number of the Germans lived in the city of Mukachevo (815 people) and Mukachevo district (1 745 people). 423 Germans lived in the Tyachiv district; in Svalyava district – 184 people. (Statystychni dani, 1997, pp. 217–222).

The problems of the socio-economic nature caused a large wave of emigration of the Germans of Transcarpathia, basically to Germany. This is evidenced by the dynamic migration patterns of the German national minority of the region. The available material, which dates back to 1994, clearly testifies the ethnic nature of the Germans' emigration, which is well illustrated in Table 1.

Table № 1

**The Emigration of the Germans of Transcarpathia**  
(Potochnyi arkhiv viddilu u spravakh natsionalnosti ta migratsii Zakarpatskoi obldierzhadministratsii. (2001). Mhratsiia nimsiv Zakarpattia)

Migration Exchange with Germany			The Germans of Transcarpathia			
Years	From Germany	To Germany	To far foreign countries	To Germany:	UIS (Union of Independent States), the Baltic countries	Other Regions:
1994	–	–	migrated – 155			
1995	17	269	191	–	8	–
1996	8	214	127	–	2	12
1997	1	347	213	–	2	4
1998	11	382	216	214	1	2
1999	8	297	158	149	0	2
2000	8	481	266	265	0	1

A particular attention should be paid to the results assessment of 2001 census, regarding the number of the Germans in Transcarpathia. The census testified to 112 persons of increase

(a total number of the Germans – 3 582 people.) (Potochnyi arkhiv Zakarpatskoho oblasnoho upravlinnia statystyky, 2001). Thus, the first All-Ukrainian census recorded a kind of paradox – the growing number of the German national minority, during which the emigration processes took place in the mid-1990-ies, including the emigration to a permanent residence in Germany. In our opinion, this situation is caused by the situational ethno-identity factor, the advantage of the German self-identification to the representatives of the ethnically-mixed marriages, whose ancestors were the Germans. Due to the intensification of the German national and cultural societies work of the region, the religious communities, such ethno-identity choice helps to revive ties with Germany, certain economic benefits, etc.

As Yu. Types, the head of the public organization “German Youth of Transcarpathia”, remarked rightly, the desire of “the ethnic Germans to find the documentary confirmation of their ethnicity was caused, of course, by the desire to move to Germany for a permanent residence under the special programme “Late Migrants”. In the 1990-ies, participating in this programme was usually easy, as compared to nowadays. At present, to emigrate to Germany, as to one's First Motherland, it takes a long process: from passing a special language proficiency test, which, incidentally, equates to an international language proficiency certificate, to a long bureaucratic documentary procedure” (Osobystyi arkhiv Zana M. P., 2019, p. 2).

It should be separately noted, there is also a partial Ukrainization of the Germans of Transcarpathia. Among the total number of the German minority, about 40 % recognized Ukrainian as their first language. A bit more than half (50.5 %) of the German minority spoke German as their first language; 4.8 % – Russian; 4.2 % – Hungarian; 0.9 % – the other language (Potochnyi arkhiv Zakarpatskoho oblasnoho upravlinnia statystyky, 2001; Pro kilnist ta sklad naseleattia, 2001).

As a result, the emigration of the Germans of Transcarpathia caused problems of their national culture approval, first of all, in the educational field. There were no German language schools in the region; there was one German language kindergarten group in the pre-school system of the region. In 2001, in the region there were 98 ethnic German children in the kindergartens, and 297 ethnic German school children. At the same time, since the mid-1990-ies the German language group had functioned only in one kindergarten, in which 24 children were brought up in 2001. 324 pupils from the schools of the region studied the German language as an optional subject. However, German was studied as a foreign language in 285 schools of the region (41,247 students). This made it easier to learn the German language in the compact residence places of the Germans.

The German language was studied from the 1st grade in the places of the compact residence of the Germans (the villages of Barbovo, Verkhniy Koropets, Kuchava, Shenborn, Pavshyno, Synyak in Mukachevo district, the village of Ust Chorna in Tyachiv district, the village of Drachyna in Svalyava district). Sunday School in Svalyava was the pioneer in the comprehensive German language training, in which 32 school children were enrolled in 2001 (Potochnyi arkhiv upravlinnia osvity i nauky Zakarpatskoi obladerzhadministratsii, 2001). It should be noted that in the context of the massive outflow of the German population and their linguistic assimilation, these indicators are quite significant. Also during the period under analysis, the Department of German Philology trained the specialists in German Philology at the Faculty of Foreign Philology in Uzhhorod National University.

As Yu. Types notes, “at the majority of the schools in the region, German is a foreign language, which is taught at the parents' and children request. Unfortunately, there is a decreasing tendency of the number of those, who want to learn German as the first foreign language”

(Osobystyi arkhiv Zana M. P., 2019, p. 2). Therefore, the public organization “German Youth of Transcarpathia” tries to implement various measures to promote and popularize the German language among children and young people. In particular, the project “10 Reasons for Learning German” has been recently implemented, during which the youth of the region stated why German was worth learning, how it could help them in the future. With the assistance of the intergovernmental commission, which is held annually with the participation of the German and Ukrainian governments representatives, there emerged the idea of introducing the German dialects of Transcarpathia into the German language textbooks. The Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine supported this idea.

For the first time under conditions of Ukraine's independence, the German national minority was given the opportunity to broadcast the television programmes on the regional television channels. In 2001, there was 1,5 hour broadcast time of the Transcarpathian Regional TV and Radio Company in the German language (Mitriaieva, 2001, p. 70). These programmes presented mainly the traditional culture of the Germans of the region, their fate under conditions of the inter-ethnic environment, the history of some famous representatives of the Germans of the region in a historical retrospective and at present. Unfortunately, there were no radio programmes and no German language press. An exception was the page, written in the German language “Am Dorfbrunnen” in the regional newspaper “The Transcarpathian News”, which had been published periodically since 1995. The publications on the German national minority of the region focused on the certain ethno-cultural aspects of the Germans identity preserving, the celebration in Mukachevo Castle, etc. (Zan, 2001, p. 225; Hvozdyak, 2017, pp. 76–79).

The amount of the German language literature was enlarged in the libraries of the region during the 1990-ies. For example, if in 1993 there were 1 714 books in German in the library collections, then there were 4 930 books in 2001. Mukachevo central library system provided the German population with the books in 5 library institutions (Haborets, 1994, p. 37; Mitriaieva, 2001, pp. 72–73).

There were five Transcarpathian club establishments during the analyzed period, in order to protect the ethnic and cultural needs of the Germans. The Germans of the region organized the artistic groups, first of all, represented by Mukachevo, Palanka, Pavshyno, Ust-Chorna, Svalyava, Chynadiyevo. The “Palanok” art center worked effectively. The active participation of the ethnic community of the Germans facilitated the active presentation of their national culture in the framework of the annual folk festivals (Rishko, 2000; DA SATR, f. 1, d. 1, case: Order dated 17.07.1992 N 187 “On celebrating the regional holiday of German folk art”, pp. 257–266; case: Order dated 15.07.1993 N 305 “On celebrating the Holiday of German Folk Art”, pp. 21–24; case: Order dated 21.07.1995 N 413 “On celebrating the Regional Holiday of German Culture”, pp. 50–54; case: Order dated 12.08.1996 N 452 “On celebrating the Regional Holiday of German Folk Art”, pp. 6–11; case: Order dated 01.09.1998 N 305 “On celebrating the Regional Festival of German Folk Art”, pp. 52–57).

The “Palanok” cultural and national center in Mukachevo was visited every year by the foreign delegations, primarily from Germany. In particular, in May 1999 it was visited by Dr. E. Hayken, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Germany to Ukraine. A special attention was paid to the German national minority of the region during those visits and the interview with the first deputy mayor of Mukachevo. In particular, the aspects of the German humanitarian assistance were discussed by means of the charitable organizations, by means of the church, its coordination on the part of the Ukrainian and German authorities.

The ambassador also visited the villages of Shönborn, Kuchava and Pavshyno, where he got acquainted with the life and mode-of-life of the Germans of the region, he had a talk with the heads of the rural communities (DA SATR, f. 195, d. 23, c. IV, pp. 69–72). Germany's support remained an effective catalyst for the affirmation of the ethnic identity of the Germans of the region, which, as stated above, attested to the results of the 2001 census.

Taking into account the historical and retrospective context of our research, it should be noted that, even after the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, when Transcarpathia became the part of Czechoslovakia, the German speaking community of the region self-organized and strived for building the national and cultural autonomy. Like other ethnic communities, the Germans of Transcarpathia formed their own society of the German culture at the constituent assembly in Mukachevo in August 1921. The representatives from many villages gathered. Thus, the active cultural and educational work was carried out both in the city of Mukachevo and in many German-speaking communities of the region, including Mokra, Ust-Chorna, Solochyn, Synyak, Pavshyno, Shönborn, Kuchava, Laliv, Drachyn, Zhdeniev and the others. As a result, in the late 1930-ies, 26 German schools and 8 parallel classes functioned in Transcarpathia, with 2 157 students studying. The drama circles and music bands functioned in the villages. During the years 1939 – 1944, the societies and schools functioned within the framework of “The German Union in Hungary”. During the Soviet period, all of the above-mentioned achievements of the German-speaking ethno-cultural segment of Transcarpathia were practically nullified (Kulia, Petryshche, 2004, p. 79–80).

The revival of the social life of the Germans was an important factor in the ethnic and cultural development of the Germans under conditions of democratization in the USSR (Hvozdyak, 2008, p. 98). In the fall of 1989, the first All-Ukrainian Conference of the Germans of Ukraine took place in Kyiv and the society “The Renaissance – Wiedergeburt” was formed (Vasylchuk, 2015, p. 156). Therefore, the public leaders of this organization began the work on the regional organizations formation of the society, including Transcarpathia. In particular, in July 1990, the founding conference of the “The Renaissance” society was held in Pavshyno village, Mukachevo district, with 276 delegates present. E. Kainz was elected the head of the society. The charter document stated that the organization represented a unit of the All-Union society of the Soviet Germans of “The Renaissance”, aimed at promoting the national issues satisfaction of “the Soviet German people”, primarily the revival of the liquidated autonomous republic along the banks of the Volha river, the national settlements revival in the Volga river region, the village councils revival in the compact resident area of the Germans (DA SATR, f. 195, d. 14, case: Decree dated 18.09.1990 N 186 “On Registration of the Statute of the Transcarpathian Regional Society of Soviet Germans “Renaissance””, p. 198).

The founding conference outlined the regional perspectives of the German national minority. In particular, the launch of the German folklore festival (M. Vogel), the initiation of the German language school opening, the organization of the research on the life of the Germans of the region, the exhibition formation of the German settlement in the Museum of architecture and mode-of-life (H. Melik), the German language and culture development (I. Kostruba) and the others (DA SATR, f. 195, d. 14, case: Decree dated 18.09.1890 N 186 “On Registration of the Statute of the Transcarpathian Regional Society of Soviet Germans “Renaissance””, pp. 213–215).

Already under conditions of Ukraine's independence there tookplace the creation of the society of Germans of Transcarpathia “Hope”. The charter document stated that the society

“... is an independent democratic organization, it conducts the independent political activity ...” (DA SATR, f. 195, d. 14, case: Order dated 29.05.1992 N 91 “On registration of the Statute of Independent Public Society of the Germans of Transcarpathia (NTNZ) “Hope””, p. 376). This formulation caused the failure of the subsequent re-registration in 1993. E. Wisinger was elected the chairman of the society at the founding conference in March 1992.

It is worth noting that the cause of the society “Hope” creation was the confrontation of the elite of the German community concerning the position on the autonomy of the region (Hvozdyak, 2008, p. 98). E. Kainz, the chairman of “The Renaissance” society, on behalf of the entire German population, signed the document “For the Autonomy of Transcarpathia”. In this situation, as L. Schwartz noted, “... we, the democratic group, made the statement in the Carpathian Ukraine, in which they condemned the irresponsibility of Emil Kainz, who spreads the ethnic hatred using such statements” (DA SATR, f. 195, d. 14, case: Order dated 29.05.1992 N 91 “On registration of the Statute of Independent Public Society of the Germans of Transcarpathia (NTNZ) “Hope””, p. 402). M. Vogel left the hall of the House of culture, where the conference was held. L. Schwartz spoke about the about perspective of conducting an independent neutral policy by the society “Hope”. At the conference the democratic forces representatives V. Zilgalov, B. Dykyi expressed the slogans of unity for the common struggle for Ukraine's true independence (DA SATR, f. 195, d. 14, case: Order dated 29.05.1992 N 91, pp. 401–403). On the other hand, the participants of the forum called for the cultural autonomy of the Germans of the region, the expansion of studying opportunities in Germany and the fulfillment of the primary task – “the restoration of the nationality by the Germans, according to the ethnic awareness of their national independence” (DA SATR, f. 195, d. 14, case: Order dated 29.05.1992 N 91, pp. 407–408).

In the 1990-ies, the most initiative was “The Renaissance” society, headed by Z. Kizman. It united 1 260 people. The activity of the society was manifested mainly in the socio-economic support of the Germans of the region. Annually the German culture holidays were held. Thanks to the society's contacts, the young Germans of the region had the opportunity to receive a mother tongue education in Germany (Mitriaieva, 2001, p. 39).

In 2000, the society called “The Germans of Transcarpathia” was registered, headed by V. Tsanko. The society was involved in organizing Sunday school, the German language courses and other cultural and educational issues. Svalyava district organization “The German community” (766 people) was the largest center of the society. Mukachevo German Society, headed by V. Fechtel, consisted of 600 people; in Ust-Chorna village – 95 people (the head – F. Shpachynskyi) (Potochnyi arkhiv Zakarpatskoho oblasnoho upravlinnia yustytisii, 2000).

At present, the majority of the German villages in Transcarpathia have their own societies and centers of German culture, which cooperate. In particular, the German organization “The German Youth of Transcarpathia” organizes the regular coordination meetings on the basis of the Regional information center of the Council of the Germans of Ukraine, which is located in the village of Chynadiievo. As noted by Yu. Types, the head of this society, “In Chynadiievo there is the German house, which also unites the ethnic Germans. We (the German youth of Transcarpathia) are the organization that brings together all representatives starting from 15–35 years old. The idea originated a long time ago, as each village has its own organization that unites the Germans. And our task is to promote the German culture and language. We carry out the social work for children and teenagers. We are assisted by the partners from the German Oberfranken, by the partners of the work group “Ukraine – Pfalz”. Our partner is the Council of the Germans of Ukraine, whose member I am. The organization runs the German



language courses for children at the age of 4 to 6–7 years old, for students and adults. In 2018, with the support of the Federal Government of Germany and the support of the Council the Germans of Ukraine, we held an international festival of the German culture “Karpatenland” in honour of the 290th anniversary of the Schönborn dynasty” (Osobystyi arkhiv Zana M. P., 2019, p. 3).

The German national minority retains the Roman Catholic ethno-confessional identity. In 1989, the liturgy was held in the German language in three communities of the Roman Catholic Church (SATR, f. 1, d. 33, c. 12, p. 52). Under conditions of Ukraine's independence, the number of the communities doubled, in which the liturgy was held in German. The liturgy services were held in German and Hungarian in Chynadiyevo and Svalyava. In a number of villages, the Germans are also the members of the Hungarian Roman Catholic communities (DA SATR, f. 195, d. 23, c. VI, p. 92).

At the end of the 1990-ies, owing to the active pastoral work of J. Trunk, the Roman Catholic missionary priest in the villages of Pavshyno, Synyak and Barbovo in Mukachevo district and Ust-Chorna in Tyachiv district, the revival of the liturgies in German began. The considerable work was done on the social, spiritual and religious protection of the German population. In particular, the church was built on the outskirts of the village of Pavshyno, the house was built for the elderly as well. The church and the hotel were also built in the village of Synyak, and the carpentry workshop was set up in the village of Schönborn under the direction of Pastor B. Noggy (Bedzir, 2001). The mentioned above facts testify to the combination of the spiritual, religious and socio-economic factors, which optimize the ethnic and social well-being of the Germans of the region.

**The Conclusions.** Thus, the results of the first All-Ukrainian population census of 2001 illustrated the situational factor of the ethnic identity among the persons, who called themselves the Germans in comparison with the data of the 1989 census. At the same time, the emigration activity during the analyzed period increased every year and in fact led to the decrease in the number of the representatives of the German national minority of the region. However, the above mentioned information also demonstrates the resistance to the assimilation processes that emerged in the creation of the national cultural societies (“The Renaissance”, “The Hope”, “The Germans of Transcarpathia”). Recently active work in the environment of the German-speaking youth of Transcarpathia is carried out by the public organization “The German Youth of Transcarpathia” (Yu. Types, the head). The representatives of the German Transcarpathian ethnic community, with the assistance of the pastoral and material assistance from Germany, affirm the Roman Catholic ethno-confessional identity. All these processes contribute to the renaissance of the ethnic culture of the Germans of Transcarpathia in the new realities of the Ukrainian state formation.

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